



# *The RHIC/AGS Users Group*

DOE RHIC Review

July 31, 2002

Richard Seto – UCR

Chairman: Users Executive Committee



users' group

# *Outline*

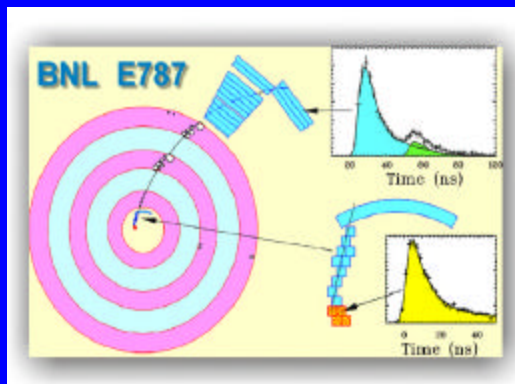
- Who we are
  - organization
  - activities (and concerns)
    - Computing/communications
    - Security
    - Public relations
- state of (a) user('s) life at BNL
- state of communication with management

BSA has made users a priority – Thanks!

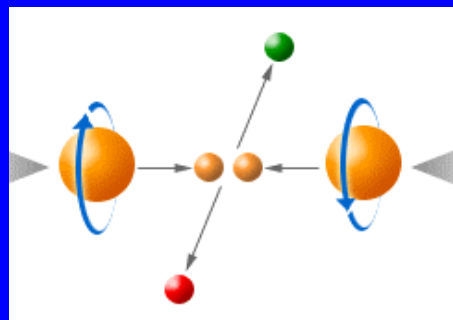


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# Who are we ?

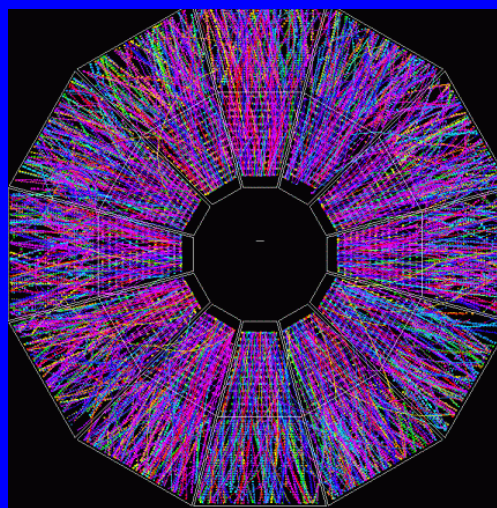


Particle Physics  
(AGS)



Medium Energy  
Spin Physics  
(RHIC)

## Organization of Users of RHIC/AGS Complex



Nuclear Physics  
(RHIC)



Biology  
(Booster Applications  
Facility - BAF)



Accelerator Physics  
(Accelerator Test  
Facility - ATF)

–Ideas for a better name anyone?



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# *Who are we ?*

- Breadth of membership has evolved
- About 1800 members\*
  - 1/2 in US
  - 1/2 RHIC
- Contemplating closer relations with
  - Light Source Users
  - Other users groups around the country

\* Includes those without a guest appt

# *Purpose*

- To give an independent voice to users
  - Channel for communication to BNL management
  - Free to lobby government agencies/representatives as private citizens
    - Indep of BNL management - though we work closely with them
  - Aided /closely associated greatly by RHIC/AGS user center
- Governing Body
  - Users Executive Committee



# *The User's Executive Committee*

- Where bulk of work gets done
  - Membership – elected by users
    - from all over US
    - from Universities and Labs
    - from all fields
      - Contemplating student representative
  - meets monthly
    - Many regular visitors
      - Management
      - Representative from Information Technology Division (Computing)
    - Guest speakers
      - Often outside visitors come specifically to hear (complain to) our guests



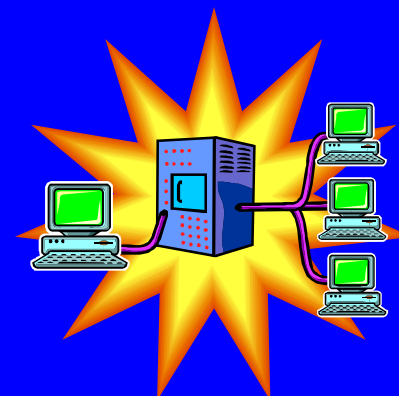
# *Sub-Committees*

- By-Laws
- Nominating
- Quality of Life
  - computing
  - Student Life
- Thesis Award
- Annual Users Meeting
- Public Relations and Political Action



# *Computing and Computer Security*

- Major Topic for UEC (necessary for science)
  - BNL – major new emphasis on computer security
  - Majority of users for computing are off site
  - RHIC has enormous computing needs
  - Complication of two organizations
    - RHIC computing Facility (RHIC specific)
    - Information Technology Division (BNL wide)
  - Have had numerous visitors from ITD
    - Susan Sevian is now a regular attendee
    - Outsiders come just to hear (complain) to these folks
    - UEC now has representatives on Computer security committee
  - UEC has “clout” to get folks to listen
    - Begun to facilitate communication between appropriate parties





# Computing issues

- During experimental data taking
  - Computing e.g. Networking *must* be working when experiments are running– otherwise we must just turn off at tremendous cost
  - Problems must be solved 24 hrs a day
    - No finger pointing
- At other times
  - Intensive computing done at BNL
  - Bottom Line: Science stops if
    - outside users cannot work seamlessly from their home institutions at BNL
    - users cannot work (e.g. plug their laptops in) when they arrive
    - Outside user's don't have a place to work when they visit.
      - Office space issue has gotten better



## *Participating in meetings from Offsite*

- Meeting facilities
  - Not all rooms are set up for offsite users to connect
    - when meetings occur in the LSR in physics outsiders are left out!
  - Often outsiders cannot hear the speaker and/or discussion
    - There should be appropriate video and audio equipment in all necessary rooms
  - Many other labs have better facilities for offsite users
    - e.g. FNAL, CERN, and ITP- UCSB
  - needs manpower as well as equipment



**Critical need for international collaborations!**

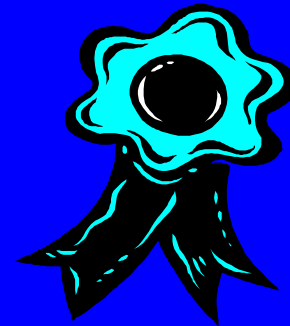
# *Foreign Visitors and Security*



- A second major issue
  - Science is international and many of our users are foreign (50% of RHIC users)
  - collaboration and conferences
  - Tightening regulations for our foreign users
    - VISA restrictions
      - E.g. colleagues from India could not come for shifts on PHENIX!
    - Visitor restrictions when here – I.e. ID card reissued EVERY VISIT????
    - Response (understandable) to Sept 11.
      - But lets not hinder science
- User's Group serves as a conduit of information

## *Other Activities*

- Thesis award instituted this year
  - 10 entries this year
    - RHIC, g-2, rareK, medium energy
  - \$2000 (?) provided by BSA
  - Will be awarded at users meeting
- Student Activities (A<sub>ssoc</sub>S<sub>tudents</sub>A<sub>nd</sub>P<sub>ostdocs</sub>)
  - Comment on student ethos – student rep to UEC
- Users meeting
  - Sept this year
  - Eventually may coordinate with light source
  - Bring in 1-2 speakers
    - Last year – Congressman Sherwood Bohmert (chair – house science committee)
    - Topic- A critical review of what we have learned from RHIC





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## *Public Relations (Political Action)*

- We (I am) are pretty green
- AGS high energy physics lost funding
  - g-2 (E821)
  - Rare K decays (E949)
- Members of two experiments requested help from Users
- Letter to congress was drafted by UEC
  - Visits by experimenters, R. Seto, Lab management to DOE/congress.
  - Constituent letters written





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# Letters

- Official Letters to:
  - Local Representatives
    - Grucci
      - Our local Congressman
    - Schumer
      - Senator from NY
  - Senators
    - Reid
      - Chair, Energy and Water
    - Domenici
  - Congressmen
    - Callahan
      - Energy and Water
    - Visclosky
      - Energy and Water



users' group  
[www.phy.bnl.gov/users](http://www.phy.bnl.gov/users)

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Honorable Felix J. Grucci, Jr.  
1505 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515-3201

March 13, 2002

Subject: BNL High Energy Physics Budget

Dear Congressman Grucci:

As members of the RHIC & AGS User's Executive Committee at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), we represent more than 1100 scientists who conduct high-energy and nuclear physics experiments using BNL's research facilities. The proposed DOE budget for fiscal year 2003 will terminate two essential scientific experiments at BNL by eliminating \$7 million in funding for the high-energy physics program at the AGS. We urge you to seek restoration of these funds to the FY03 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill while increasing the total money provided for science.

The two experiments, which will be terminated as a result of the proposed budget cuts, provide crucial tests of our understanding of the universe, and have been given a high priority by peer review. Initial results have received much acclaim from both the scientific community and the popular press.

Construction of the necessary devices for these experiments has already been completed so it would be consistent with good management and fiscal responsibility to operate the accelerator to take data. In addition, major financial contributions have been made by the Japanese, Russian, and Canadian governments to both of these experiments. The cancellation of the AGS program will disappoint many foreign scientists, their funding agencies, and would thereby jeopardizing future international scientific collaboration.

The pursuit of scientific knowledge is vital for the health of our nation. It is important that the high-energy physics programs, as well as all other fields of science, be preserved to ensure that the U.S. continues to be a leader in these fields. We, therefore, urge you to seek an additional \$7M for the DOE High Energy Physics budget—so that these important experiments in high-energy physics at the AGS can be realized.

Sincerely,

Richard K. Seto, Chairman

Berndt Bassalleck

Robert E. Chrien

Jack Engelage

Steven Kettell

Michael Lisa

Jeffery T. Mitchell

Marzia Rosati

Jim Thomas

Peter Yamin

cc: S. Aronson, T. Kirk, D. Lowenstein, J. O'Fallon, R. Orbach, P. Paul, P. Rosen

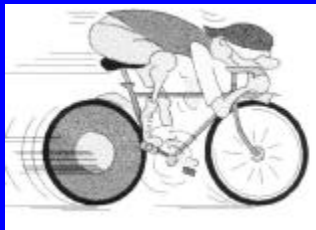
# *Result/the future*

- Result:
  - Money to run 949 for one year
    - Thanks!, however
    - Problem for next year!!!
- In the future
  - If e.g. RHIC runs into major financial problems
    - We will write again as a group
    - Organize many visits/letters to capitol hill, local congressional office by many constituents (~hundreds)
- Comment about inter-disciplinary cooperation (or lack thereof)



# *Visitor Life at BNL*

- Basically governed by ability to do science
  - User's Center (A major improvement)
    - Important fact – great employees!
    - Radiation Safety now streamlined and coordinated! (GREAT!)
      - Not just User's center but different dept's of BNL cooperating
  - Transportation (working on it)
    - New shuttle on demand started during the week-day
      - Really the needs are specific (e.g. during RHIC runs, at night/weekends)
        - People can check out DOE cars overnight (good)
      - Begun a car rental service





# *Living Space*

- Much improvement over last several years
  - The good
    - Air conditioning in Dorms
    - Laundry in dorms!
    - Internet in dorms (apts – soon!)
    - Price is right!
  - The not so good
    - Summer houses not in good shape
    - Food in BNL cafeteria could be improved (e.g. LBNL, ANL, ITP-UCSB)
    - Problem of separating younger more “exuberant” (parties, beer) summer students from more “serious” users (work all night, desperately need sleep), particularly for the women – priorities??
  - BNL staff must be vigilant to keep dorms clean (I.e. clocks/soap/toilets/ enough space for toiletries in bathroom...)



## *Conclusion: Communication with Lab Management*

- In a word – not bad!
  - Visitors to UEC – Tom Kirk, Peter Bond, Derek Lowenstein, and even Peter Paul on a few occasions.
  - UEC inclusion in lab decision making process
  - Much of science is actually handled via the experimental spokespersons/Program Advisory Committee (which is as it should be)
  - Management of ITD – becoming more accessible and responsive
  - Many thanks to BSA for making the users a priority





# *The RHIC/AGS Users Group*

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